

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A conveyor pan for face conveyors in underground mining systems, ~~in particular coal mining systems, with~~ comprising:

an outward race and a return race ~~to guide~~ for guiding a scraper chain, between which a conveyor bottom is disposed, ~~with~~

~~on a goaf side and on a wall side~~ a securing means ~~located at conveyor pan ends~~ for a connecting component ~~[[to]]~~ that links adjacent conveyor pans together ~~is located on a goaf side and on a wall side, with~~

guide means for a mining machine which may be moved along a wall, and ~~with~~

a static loading ramp connected to the conveyor pan on the wall side and extending from a floor to a level of the outward race, by means of which muck may be loaded into the outward race as the face conveyor is advanced, said loading ramp comprising a curved or angled guide plate, a lower section of which is steeper relative to an associated floor or to the conveyor bottom than an upper section thereof, wherein the lower section and the upper section of said angled guide plate are generally flat and include an angle therebetween of approximately 150°-170° and an apex line of the guide plate defined by the lower and upper sections is disposed at a level of the conveyor bottom.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the lower section is inclined relative to the conveyor bottom by an angle of approximately 65°-85° ~~74°-82°~~ and the upper section is inclined relative to the conveyor bottom by an angle of approximately 45°-65° ~~51°-59°~~.

6. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the guide plate is equipped at conveyor pan ends with recesses sized to match dimensions of at least one of the securing means and the conveyor pan-connecting component.

7. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the securing means includes toggle bolt sockets ~~and the conveyor pan-connecting components includes toggle bolts,~~ for receiving toggle heads of the toggle bolts that are engageable in the toggle bolt sockets.

8. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the lower section of the guide plate forms a bar at a lower edge thereof, which extends as far as pan ends of the conveyor pan.

9. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 6, wherein a limiting wall of one of the recesses includes a detent parallel to pan ends of the conveyor pan.

10. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the guide plate is welded to the conveyor pan.

11. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the lower section of the guide plate is welded to a sliding bar on the wall side ~~or to a machinery guide for the mining machine.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the upper section of the guide plate is welded to an underside or front face of a horizontal web of an approximately T-shaped or L-shaped rolled steel side section.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein in a center area of the guide plate a hole for a lifting hook is defined.

15. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein at least two support plates are disposed between the guide plate and at least one of the side wall on the wall side, [[the]] side sections of the outward race, and the return race.

16. (Previously Presented) The conveyor pan of Claim 15, wherein the guide plate has vertical slots at the level of the support plates.

17. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan of Claim 1, wherein the guide means for a ~~cutting~~ mining machine ~~are included with~~ includes ~~the~~ a horizontal web of the outward race's side section on the wall side.

18-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A conveyor pan for a face conveyor used in underground mining systems, said conveyor pan comprising:

a conveyor bottom disposed between an outward race and a return race for guiding a scraper chain;

a securing means disposed on opposed ends of said conveyor bottom for engagement with an associated connecting component for linking adjacent conveyor pans together; and

a loading ramp connected to said conveyor bottom on a wall side thereof for loading ~~muck~~ muck into said outward race, said loading ramp extending from an underlying support surface to said outward race and including:

a curved or angled guide plate having a lower front surface section and ~~an~~ upper front surface section, said lower front surface section positioned at a greater angle relative to said support surface than said upper front surface section, wherein an angle defined between said lower front face and said upper front face is approximately 150°-170°.

21. (New) The conveyor pan of Claim 20, wherein said upper front surface is inclined relative to said support surface at an angle of approximately 45°-65°.

22. (New) The conveyor pan of Claim 21, wherein said upper front surface is inclined relative to said support surface at an angle of approximately 51°-59°.

23. (New) The conveyor pan of Claim 20, wherein an apex line defined by said lower and upper front surfaces is disposed at a level of the conveyor bottom.